

EPA Region 10's Emergency Response Program Michael Szerlog, FOSC



EPA's Mission

- EPA's mission is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment — air, water, and land upon which life depends.
- For 30 years, EPA has been following that mission to respond to hazardous materials emergency responses.

Response Authorities

➤ CERCLA (Superfund)

- Response to releases or threats of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants

➤ Clean Water Act as amended by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA)

- Response to discharges or threats of discharges of oil to waters of the United States

➤ Stafford Act

- Provides federal coordination to declared National Disasters (natural and man-made)

Implementation of Authorities

- National Contingency Plan NCP; CERCLA/OPA)
 - Governs how EPA will respond to releases of hazardous materials and discharges of oil
 - Designates the federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) as the lead responder
- Federal Response Plan (FRP; Stafford Act)
 - Governs how the federal government will respond to natural and man-made disasters
 - Requires request by the Governor and approval by the President to activate
 - Designates EPA as the lead agency for Emergency Support Function 10 (Hazardous Materials)

EPA's ERU: Who Are We?

- 15 On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)
 - 9 in Seattle, 2 in Portland, 1 in Boise, 1 in Coeur d'Alene, and 2 in Anchorage
 - Geographically Focused OSCs.
- 2 Spill Contingency Planners
 - One for Alaska and one for three northwest states
- 3 Enforcement Specialists
- 1 Contracts Manager

EPA's ERU: What Do We Do?

- Emergency response to accidental releases of oil and chemicals
- Response to releases resulting from natural or manmade disasters
- CERCLA Time-Critical Removal Actions
- Planning and Preparedness
 - Training, exercises, contingency planning, outreach
- Prevention/Enforcement
 - Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA)
 - Clean Air Act 112r Risk Management Program (112r)
 - Clean Water Act, Oil Pollution Act Amendments (OPA)
- Outreach/Capacity Building

EPA's ERU: What Do We Bring?

- EPA duty officer available 24/7 for technical assistance and response (Federal On-Scene Coordinator).
- Responders available in Seattle, Anchorage, Portland, Boise, and Coeur d'Alene
- Enforcement authorities to ensure that the responsible party (RP) cleans up the spill or release;
- Immediate access to SUPERFUND and OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND;
- Immediate spending authority up to \$200K with further spending authority based on limited approval up to \$2 million;
- Access to technical assistance and clean up contractors if RP cannot handle the problem or state and local responders require assistance.;
- Technical expertise from Regional and National Response Team as well as Special Forces;

OSC's Assets: Internal EPA

- EPA Environmental Response Teams (Las Vegas, NV and Edison, NJ)
 - Specialized technical resources such as mobile Trace
- Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus and Airborne Scientific Photograph Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) airplane
- EPA Radiological Emergency Response Teams (Las Vegas, NV and Montgomery, AL)
 - Radiation monitoring, radionuclide analysis, radiation health physics, mobile and fixed laboratories, and risk assessment
- EPA Criminal Enforcement Agents
- National Enforcement Investigation Center (NEIC)
- EPA Research Labs

OSC's Assets:

National Response System

- USCG Strike Teams
- DOD explosives experts
- DOD salvage team
- DOE Radiation Teams
- EPA/NOAA Scientific Support Coordinators
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- DOI/DOC - natural resource trustees

OSC's Assets: Contractors

- Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START)
 - Core ER Team in Seattle
 - Teams in Portland, OR and Anchorage, AK
- Emergency Rapid Response Services Contractor (ERRS)
 - Contractor based out of Washington State with teaming subcontractors covering all of Region 10
- Specialized contracts

EPA Response Capabilities

- **Level A capabilities**
- **Air monitoring and modeling**
- **Technical decontamination**
- **Unknown identification**
- **WMD detection**
- **Routine environmental sampling and analyses**

Emergency Response Vehicles

➤ Anchorage

- 4-WD Response Vehicle with equipment trailer

➤ Portland

- 4-WD Response Vehicle with equipment trailer

➤ Seattle

- ER Response Van
- Level “A” Platform Vehicle
- Mobile Command Post
- Geoprobe TM
- Equipment Decontamination Trailer

Air Monitoring, Sampling, & Chemical Detection

- TVA 1000 PID/FID;
- TMX 412 Explosimeter;
- Chlorine, Ammonia, Hydrogen Cyanide Gas Monitors;
- PDR 1000 Dust Monitors;
- Gastec/Drager Hand Pumps with Assorted Detector Tubes;
- Drager Chip System with 20 Assorted Chemical Chips;
- SKC Air Sampling Pumps with Assorted Sample Media;
- Mercury Vapor Analyzer;
- Haztech HAZCAT Kit;
- First Step Hazard Identification Kit.

CT/Chemical WMD Detection

➤ Anchorage

- M8/M9 Papers
- MSA Detector Tubes
- APD 2000 chem agent detector

➤ Portland

- M8/M9 Papers
- AP2C chemical agent detector

➤ Seattle

- M8/M9 Papers
- Drager CDS detector tubes
- SAW MiniCAD
- APD 2000 chem agent detector
- HAPSITE portable GC/MS
- AP2C chemical agent detector

CT/Biological & Radiological Detection

➤ Anchorage

- Smart Tickets (Anthrax, SEB, Plague, Ricin, Botulinum)
- Alpha, Beta, Gamma Probes/Meters


➤ Portland

- Alpha, Beta, Gamma Probes/Meters

➤ Seattle

- Guardian BTA System
- (Anthrax, SEB, Plague, Ricin, Botulinum)
- RAPID Bio Detector Sharing with Region 9 (Anthrax, Brucella, Tularemia, Plague)
- Alpha, Beta, Gamma Probes/Meters

Emergency Response – Other Resources

- **Sampling and PPE Fly-Away Kits for Prompt Response to Remote Locations**
 - **BOAs for Analytical Labs, Cultural Resources**
 - **BOAs for Aircraft and Watercraft under Development**
 - **Field Laboratory**
 - **Rapid Geoprobe Assessment**
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Assessment and Removal

➤ Removal Site Assessment

- Site Characterization
- Extent of Contamination


➤ Surveys

- Innovative Technologies

➤ Removal Support

- Engineering Services
- Treatment Technology

➤ Evaluation

- Waste Disposal Options
 - Excavation
 - Bulking
 - Transportation and disposal
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EPA Emergency Response

- EPA 24-hour duty officer
 - (206) 553-1263
- National Response Center
 - (800) 424-8802
- QUESTIONS???

